

REMARKS

This Amendment is prepared in response to the interview with the Examiner on December 15, 2004 and in response to the first Office action mailed on 5 October 2004 (Paper No. 20040930). Claims 1 through 10 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 and 10 by this amendment.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4 and 10 in this amendment in an attempt to overcome this rejection.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 because the phrases, "number of functions for outputting the objects" and "number of functions depending on objects" are unclear. Applicant has amended these claims by replacing the above phrases with --vector object functions-- to overcome this rejection. Applicant has also amended these claims to overcome the antecedent basis problem as well. Applicant would also like to know at the interview if the above amendment to claims 1 and 4 are sufficient to overcome the rejection. If they are not sufficient, Applicant would like guidance as to what the Examiner would deem as necessary to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second

paragraph rejections in the Office action.

Applicant submits that the above original language is taken from paragraph 0018. The phrase --vector object functions-- is the same as the functions in “the number of functions for outputting the objects”. Vector object functions serve to output the objects or draw the objects when vector mode is employed. An example of a vector object function is given in the specification as a computer code in C language used to output objects.

The GDI (graphic device interface) calls an object function where various parameters related to each of the objects are defined whenever an object is divided from the image data is to be drawn. Thus, the present invention uses the number of object functions called whenever the above objects are to be drawn.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 10 because the phrase “vector object functions” is unclear. Applicant submits that “vector object functions” is clearly used and defined in paragraph 0022 of Applicant’s specification and is clearly used in the flowchart of FIG. 3. Therefore, Applicant would like more guidance as to what the Examiner deems is unclear by the phrase, “vector object functions” in claim 10.

In the present invention, when an image is to be printed, it is determined whether

the image is to be printed as a bitmap or in vector mode. In other words, the present invention seeks to find the most efficient way for outputting an image. One of the criteria for determining whether to use bitmap (raster) or vector (object) mode is to count the number of vector object functions that would be needed to output the objects if vector mode were to be used to output the objects. If the number of vector object functions are zero or greater than a predetermined limit, the image is printed via a bitmap using raster commands. If the number of vector object functions is greater than zero but less than the predetermined limit, the image is printed using vector mode.

Thus, the limitations in question in the claims pertain to box 360, 370 and 372 in FIG. 3 where the number of vector object functions are counted, and if between zero and the limit value, the image is printed in vector mode, otherwise, the image is printed using a bitmap.

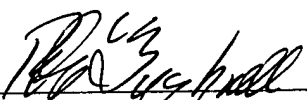
Applicant will now discuss the substance of the interview that occurred on December 15, 2004. At the Interview, the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments and the proposed remarks of the December 8, 2004 draft amendment would suffice to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections of the first Office action. The Examiner thus instructed Applicant to file the same draft amendment as an official amendment, which is what Applicant is now doing by filing this amendment in Official form. Upon receipt of this official amendment, the Examiner will then conduct

an updated prior art search, and then either issue a notice of allowance or issue a new, non-final Office action. Further, as is evidenced by the Interview Summary, the Examiner not only agreed that the enclosed amendments will overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections, but they will also not necessitate any new grounds for rejection.

No fees are incurred by the filing of this amendment.

Reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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